

Amendments to the Claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** A hermetic compressor comprising a housing which contains oil and houses a compression mechanism for compressing a refrigerant gas,

the compression mechanism comprising:

a crankshaft disposed in a vertical direction and having a main shaft and an eccentric shaft;

a block forming a cylinder having a cylinder axis;

a piston ~~reciprocating~~ arranged to reciprocate in the cylinder in a direction of ~~a~~ the cylinder axis, the piston having an outer circumferential surface and a top surface;

a piston pin disposed ~~on~~ in the piston ~~in a way in which such that~~ a center axis of the piston pin is ~~in~~ parallel to the eccentric shaft;

a connecting rod for connecting the eccentric shaft to the piston pin; and

an oil supplying structure for supplying the oil to an outer circumferential surface of the piston;

wherein the piston has an under cut ~~on~~ formed in the outer circumferential surface ~~excluding outside~~ a sliding surface thereof existing in a parallel direction and a perpendicular direction of the piston pin, as viewed ~~from~~ in an axial direction of the piston; and ~~the under cut separated from a top surface at a cylinder side of the piston and communicates with space inside the housing at least when the piston is in a bottom dead center.~~

wherein the under cut is separated from the top surface of the piston and, at least when the piston is in a bottom dead center position, communicates with space inside the housing.

2. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 1, wherein an area of the under cut ~~is~~ occupies not less than one half of an area of the outer circumferential surface of the piston.

3. **(Original)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 1, wherein an angle made by an edge of the under cut and the outer circumferential surface of the piston is an acute angle.

4. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 1, wherein the under cut is formed continuously to a skirt surface of the piston.

5. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 1, wherein the piston has a circumferentially formed land ~~in~~ with a predetermined axial width extending axially from the top surface, and the circumferentially formed land is provided with an annular groove.

6. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 1, wherein the piston has a taper in at least one of a boundary between the top surface and the outer circumferential surface and a boundary between ~~a skirt surface and~~ the outer circumferential surface and a skirt surface of the piston.

7. **(Currently amended)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 1, further comprising a motor element for rotating the crankshaft, the motor element being inverter-driven at plural operation frequencies including an operation frequency that is at least a power supply frequency or less.

8. **(Original)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 1, wherein the refrigerant gas is R600a.

9. **(Currently amended)** A hermetic compressor comprising a housing which contains oil and houses a compression mechanism for compressing a refrigerant gas,
the compression mechanism comprising:

a crankshaft disposed in a vertical direction and having a main shaft and an eccentric shaft;

a cylinder;

a cylindrical piston ~~reciprocating~~ arranged to reciprocate in the cylinder in a direction of a cylinder axis; and

a connecting portion for connecting the piston to the eccentric shaft;

the piston comprising:

a skirt surface at a side of the connecting portion;

a top surface at a side of the cylinder; and

an outer circumferential surface parallel to the cylinder;

wherein the outer circumferential surface includes a land that is on the same surface as the outer circumferential surface of the piston and an under cut that is ~~recess~~ recessed with respect to the outer circumferential surface;

the land comprising:

a circumferentially formed land formed ~~in~~ with a predetermined width extending from the top surface toward the skirt surface around the piston; and

an axially formed land formed in a predetermined circumferential width on ~~an~~ the outer circumferential ~~surfaces~~ surface at circumferential locations at 0°, 90°, 180° and 270° with respect to the cylinder axis as a center, and continuously formed from the circumferentially formed land to the skirt surface.

10. **(Original)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 9, wherein the under cut is formed continuously to the skirt surface.

Claim 11 **(Cancelled)**

12. **(New)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 1, wherein

the sliding surface, that exists in the parallel direction and the perpendicular direction of the piston pin, includes two diametrically opposed sliding surface portions, each of which extends axially along said outer circumferential surface at locations thereof intersecting the parallel direction of the piston pin, and two diametrically opposed sliding surface portions, each of which extends axially along said outer circumferential surface at locations thereof intersecting the perpendicular direction of the piston pin.

13. **(New)** The hermetic compressor according to claim 9, wherein the circumferential locations at 0°, 90°, 180° and 270° are measured circumferentially from an intersection of the outer circumferential surface and the parallel direction of the piston pin.